



March 2016

Word from Wyoming

wyoming.delaware.gov



Overgrown grass and weeds

Please read "Ordinance #12-11 An Ordinance Regulating Overgrown Grass and Weeds," attached to this newsletter. Growing season will be here soon and this is a reminder of the town's regulations. Any resident with yard growth over eight inches will receive a five-day notice. If action isn't taken, the town will mow the grass and bill you for it--\$150 per hour per laborer with a minimum of 1 hour, plus a \$50 administrative fee per incident.

Easter's coming/Wyoming Park's opening

The Wyoming United Methodist Church will hold their annual Sunrise Service at Wyoming Park on Easter Sunday, March 27. This will also mark the season opening of Wyoming Park, which is next to Wyoming Pond and accessible via W. 3rd St.

Have a tattered or torn flag?

After a windy winter, some of you may have tattered and torn flags. If so, please bring them to Town Hall, give them to a Wyoming police officer, or call Georgette Williams (302-745-1273) so arrangements can be made for them to be picked up. Boy Scout Troop 24 will dispose of them properly.

Change of dates

The date of Fifer Orchards' Customer Appreciation Day is changing this year. Previously, it was held the same time as the Wyoming Peach Festival. However, because of heavy traffic and congestion at the farm, Fifer's Customer Appreciation Day will be held a week after our Peach Festival. During our Peach Festival on Sat., August 6th, Fifer's farm store will be open. The following Sat., August 13th, the Customer Appreciation Day will take place along with many activities at the farm store and playgrounds. So mark your calendar for these two special dates: our Peach Festival on Sat., August 6th,

Calendar of Events:

- Town Council Meeting—Monday, April 4th @ 7:30 p.m.
- Planning & Zoning Meeting—Tuesday, April 12th @ 7:30 p.m.
- Camden-Wyoming Sewer & Water—Tuesday, April 12th @ 7 p.m. @ CWSWA Building.
- Peach Festival Committee—Tuesday, March 15th @ 7 p.m.
- Trash pickup is every Friday. Recycling pickup is every Tuesday. Bulk pickup is every Wednesday, and Yard Waste pickup is Tuesday, March 22nd & April 5th.

(All meetings are held at the Wyoming Town Annex, 10 S. Railroad Ave.)

and Fifer Orchards' Customer Appreciation Day on Sat., August 13th.

Beware of the Scam

Some residents are receiving phone calls from the IRS threatening court proceedings and asking that their phone calls be returned. Do not return these calls because they're scams! Do not give out any personal information to anyone calling from the IRS. The IRS does not telephone people; they send notices in the mail and only via the mail.

Town of Wyoming
1 N. Railroad Ave. Wyoming, DE 19934

Phone: (302) 697-2966
Fax: (302) 697-7961

Message from Mayor Rife

Happy March! — the month for St. Patrick's Day, the beginning of Spring, and Easter. Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy Spring, and Happy Easter to everyone! Please remember the sunrise services on Easter Sunday, March 27th at Wyoming Park. Come out and enjoy the beautiful service.

Police: As we read the newspapers and watch the daily news, we hear many negative comments about our police. I want to tell you about a letter I received from a lady in our area. The letter reads: "On 1-3-2016 my mother passed away in my home. Officer Mike Petyo responded; he was very professional, yet so kind and understanding. He provided comfort for my sister and myself. He was even so kind as to contact the funeral parlor, so I didn't have to do it. He did everything in his power to make the situation to go as smooth as possible. I would like to have this letter along with an accommodation put in his permanent record for his act of kindness. In today's world, with so many people complaining of police brutality Corporal Petyo is a shining example of great morals and values that make this country so strong and unique. He is everything a police officer should be and a credit to his profession. Thank you from our Family." **I have chosen not to print the family's name, but I would like to thank them for recognizing Corporal Mike Petyo. Mike is one of our finest officers. Our Police Department definitely is not the largest in Delaware but we definitely have some of the best police officers on it.**

Wyoming Fishing Derby: Patrolman First Class Dan Creech of the Wyoming Police Department will host the Wyoming Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 18th at Wyoming Park. Please put this date on your calendar. We are proud to have dedicated police officers like Dan Creech who take time and volunteer to work with children. If you would like to become a sponsor, contact Town Hall at 302-697-2966.

Wyoming Park: The bathrooms at the park will be reopening Easter weekend, March 26th and 27th. Until then, a port-a-potty is there.

Peach Festival: The meetings of the Wyoming Peach Festival Committee have begun. New members are needed so please feel free to attend the upcoming meeting on March 15th.

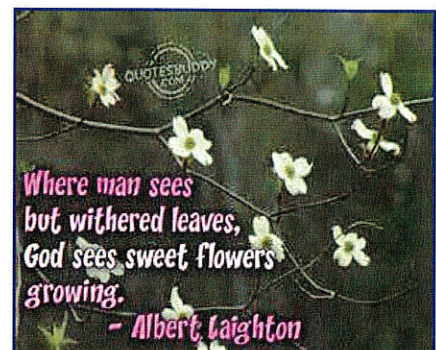
As always, without all of you, this town would not be "The Best Little Town in Delaware."
Thank you, Mayor Dale Rife
Frankiedale@hotmail.com

From Police Chief Willey

Happy Easter. We are now heading into springtime and are currently in the hiring process to fill our vacant position. Once that position is filled, we'll be back to full staff.

Please be aware that we had an incident in the unpaved parking lot located behind the Little League Field. Two parties were involved and one shot was fired which hit a car. The parties involved were arrested. Because of this situation, we have increased our patrolling of this area to make our presence known and to discourage any type of unwanted activities. Since it's impossible for us to be everywhere, we're asking for your assistance—if you see anything that doesn't look right, please call 911, and we'll check it out. Thank you in advance for your help.

With springtime fast approaching, more people will be outside riding their bikes, walking and jogging. Please use caution when you're driving. In 2015, more than 25% of fatalities in Delaware were pedestrians, which is more than double the national average. Stats show that during 2015, two-thirds of the pedestrians killed on the roads were under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and 75% occurred between dusk and 2 a.m. Also keep in mind that students will be on vacation from March 25th-April 3rd so please be careful when you're driving—and let's have a safe and enjoyable Easter. I'd like to leave you with this quote:



Sponsor: Mayor Dale Rife
First Reading: 10/5/15
Second Reading: 10/5/15

**ORDINANCE #12-11
AMENDMENT #1**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #12-11 OF THE TOWN OF WYOMING,
"AN ORDINANCE REGULATING OVERGROWN GRASS AND WEEDS IN THE
TOWN OF WYOMING"**

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED by the Town Council of the Town of Wyoming, a majority thereof concurring in council duly met, that Ordinance #12-11 of the Town of Wyoming "An Ordinance Regulating Overgrown Grass and Weeds in the Town of Wyoming" be and hereby is amended, as follows to wit:

Section 1. Amend Section 4 "Charge for mowing by town" by removing subsections 1, 2 and 3, "costs that shall be assessed" and replacing these with "as per attached fee schedule."

Synopsis

This ordinance amends the Town of Wyoming grass ordinance to remove town mowing fees within the ordinance and replacing them with the phrase "as per attached fee schedule."

This shall certify that this is a true and correct copy of the ordinance duly adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Wyoming at a duly-noticed and convened meeting at which a quorum was present on October 5, 2015..

Attest: Parula B. Haddick So Certifies: Mayor Dale Rife
Town Clerk Mayor

This shall certify that a copy of this Ordinance was posted at the Town Hall on Oct. 6, 2015.

10/6/15 So Certifies: Parula B. Haddick
Date

ATTACHMENT TO ORDINANCE #12-11

FEE SCHEDULE AS APPROVED AT WYOMING COUNCIL WORKSHOP AUGUST 29, 2015

Clean-up and/or mowing of property	\$150.00	per hour per person (minimum of 1 hour)
Administrative Fee per incident	\$50.00	
Rental Equipment Needed		Charges per cost to Town

Sponsor: Mayor Dale Rife
First Reading: 11/7/11
Second Reading: 12/5/11

ORDINANCE #12-11

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING OVERGROWN GRASS AND WEEDS IN THE TOWN OF WYOMING

WHEREAS, the Town of Wyoming is authorized under section 27 of its Town Charter to enact ordinances related to the sanitation, beauty, health, and safety of the public;

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Wyoming finds that overgrown grass and weeds are detrimental to the sanitation, beauty, health, and safety of the public;

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED by the Town Council of the Town of Wyoming, a majority thereof concurring in council duly met, that Ordinance #12-11 "An Ordinance Regulating Overgrown Grass and Weeds in the Town of Wyoming" be and hereby is enacted, as follows to wit:

Section 1. Unlawful to allow growth above certain height. It shall be unlawful for any person, group of persons, firm, association or corporation to permit any grass or weeds or other vegetation whatsoever other than edible vegetables, edible fruits, trees and flowers to grow higher than eight (8) inches from the ground on any lot or parcel of ground within the corporate limits of the town, owned by such person, group of persons, firm, association or corporation whether the lot or parcel of ground has or has not erected thereon improvements. Yards shall be kept free from trash and debris that interfere with mowing of the area.

Section 2. Unlawful to allow growth in sidewalks, walkways, other areas. It shall be unlawful for any person, group of persons, firm, association or corporation to permit any grass, weeds or other vegetation whatsoever to grow in any sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas.

Section 3. Abatement of violation by town upon owner's failure; collection of costs. If the owner or responsible party for a lot or parcel of ground permits a violation to occur by failing to maintain said lot or parcel in accordance with the terms of this ordinance, the town shall give five days written notice once each calendar year (January 1 through December 31) that the town shall proceed, without further notice, to abate the violation each time the property is inspected and found to be in violation of this ordinance. The cost thereof, together with any fines and costs, shall constitute claim against the owner or owners of the lot or parcel of ground and may be collected as any other fine or cost is collected.

Section 4. Charge for mowing by town. ~~When the town is required under this ordinance to mow lots or when the town is requested to mow any private property in the town, the following~~
"as per attached fee schedule" of Amendment #1 adopted 10/6/15

cost shall be assessed:

- (1) Mowing and/or weed-eating—\$50.00 per hour with a \$50.00 minimum;
- (2) Removal of trash and debris from area (if needed)—\$50.00 per hour with a \$50.00 minimum
- (3) Administrative charge—\$25.00

Section 5. Advertisement. The town shall place a copy of this ordinance in the town newsletter once each calendar year at the beginning of the year. Enforcement will not begin until 15 days after publication of the ordinance.

Section 6. Penalty. Any person or group of persons, firm, association or corporation violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a civil violation of this ordinance, and upon conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction shall be fined no less than \$50.00 nor more than \$100.00 and costs. Each day that such violation is maintained shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 7. Payment of charges and penalty. The town shall bill the property owner for the charges incurred to abate the ordinance violation, plus the penalty provided for herein. Included with the bill shall be notice of the property owner's right to appeal the Code Enforcement Official's decision and proof of the violation, consisting of a photograph and, when applicable, an approximate measurement of the grass and/or weeds in violation of this article. If not paid when due, the costs for mowing and trimming, plus penalty, will be added to the Town's annual tax bill and as such shall constitute a lien upon the property.

Section 8. Appeals. Any property owner may appeal the decision of the Code Enforcement Officer that the owner's property was in violation of this ordinance by submitting such appeal, in writing, to the Town Council within 10 business days of the date of the bill for the mowing and trimming costs. The Town Council shall review the appeal and take appropriate action by or at the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

Synopsis

This ordinance prohibits property owners or other responsible persons from allowing grass, weeds, and other vegetation (not including edible vegetables, edible fruits, trees, and flowers) from growing in excess of eight inches in height. This ordinance prohibits individuals from allowing grass, weeds, and vegetation from growing in spaces or cracks in sidewalks, driveways, and other similar areas. The town must provide 5 days notice prior to taking action to abate a violation, and only one notice is required annually. This ordinance must be published annually in a newspaper in the town, and this ordinance outlines the penalties for violations and the charges for abatement actions taken by the town and allows unpaid penalties and fees to be added to the annual tax bills. Appeals procedures are outlined in this ordinance.

This shall certify that this is a true and correct copy of the ordinance duly adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Wyoming at a duly-noticed and convened meeting at which a quorum was present on December 5, 2011.

Attest:

Town Clerk

So Certifies;

Mayor

12/7

12/7/11
Date

Date'

Farrela B. Haddock,

Dear Neighbors

August 1, 2015

The Camden-Wyoming Fire Company, Inc. would like to take this opportunity to teach the community the financial make up of the fire service. In the past many people did not have knowledge of how the Fire Companies obtained the funding needed to operate.

To begin with, the State of Delaware supports the fire service with a tax on house insurance premiums (2%) for each policy which had been enacted in the 1950 time frame. Fortunately for the citizen's of Delaware and those who own property in Delaware this tax has not been increased since it was enacted. Unfortunately for the fire companies this tax has not kept up with inflation and the increased cost of providing the service you expect.

Next is the State of Delaware tax on Life Insurance and health insurance premiums (4%) which when enacted in 2006 was a nice addition for the additional support. But then the economy went into a downward spiral which greatly reduced the amount of policies written in the state because of layoffs, businesses going out of business.

The State of Delaware also awards appropriations for each Engine pumper, aerial, rescue, apparatus and boats. These appropriations are awarded by the State of Delaware for the purpose of maintaining these individual pieces of apparatus for example each Engine pumper must be maintained as a class "A" standard; each aerial (Platform or ladder) must be inspected and certified; each rescue truck must also be inspected and certified and its equipment on the truck also (Hurst tools-Jaws of Life). All air breathing equipment (Air Masks) and compressors are inspected certified and maintained each year. All of these inspections are performed by individual certification companies.

For Kent County the State of Delaware also gives what is called "leveling up moneys", this funding is used for giving additional funding in comparison to New Castle and Sussex counties. Unfortunately, being that Kent County is the smallest county of the state, but the costs of operating a fire service are the same.

Kent County gives an appropriation of \$45,670.61 for the year 2014-2015 budget year, thank you Kent County Levy Court.

Kent County also as a Building permit fee on each building permit (Incorporated areas of the county) (.0025% of the value of the permit) issued, this started in 2003 and in the beginning additional funds were received, but then the economy went into downward spiral and those funds were greatly reduced.

In adding all of these above mention funds together, the amount comes to 45% of the budget of the Camden-Wyoming Fire Company, which leaves 55% for the fire company to make up themselves. This is accomplished by billing for ambulance services, fund drives, dinners, bingos, crab feasts and other fund raising activities. This task is accomplished by the same people who dedicate their time to train and handle all of the fire calls. When one looks at the amount of time that is needed to accomplish this it is easy to see that most people cannot keep up with the effort for a long time and not take a toll on their family's lives. Remember these people do this effort for you to enjoy so when you call 911 there is an immediate response, and yet they do not receive a pay check for the service.

The Camden-Wyoming Fire Company, Inc. takes on the commitment of community ambulance service; and it required employing additional personnel to support the ambulance service 24/7, because most volunteers have to work other jobs for the money they need to exist. This effort of employing others to staff the ambulances is a cost that is paid for by the fire companies to ensure the community of an ambulance service is available at all times. The bill one receives because of service rendered covers the cost of employing the personnel and maintaining the ambulances.

If one reviews The Auditor of the State of Delaware Tom Wagner's report "Delaware Volunteer Fire Service 2014 Annual Report" and sees that the volunteer fire service saves the State of Delaware in cost avoidance of \$184,868,278.00 per year. Then divide that figure by 80 stations (60 fire company with 20 substations) equals \$2,310,853.48 per station in cost savings. Now take the cost savings per station multiply that by 19 (18 fire companies with Dover substation) fire stations in Kent County that equals \$43,906,216.12 in cost savings for the county. With the present budget of Kent County at \$72,500,000.00, one should see that adding these two figures together would create the need to increase property taxes to support a fully paid fire company.

It is refreshing to recognize that a group of citizens can affect the whole population of an area with their efforts in saving lives and property while at the same time saving taxpayer's money in their property tax bill every year. In short this article has tried to explain to the citizenry the financial side of the fire service but remember this is only one phase of this effort. There is also the effort of the members getting up in the middle of the night to answer an alarm for someone they do not know only that they called for help. In addition the numerous hours one takes to keep their skills tuned by attending training thought out the year. All that is asked of the citizenry by the fire company is a yearly donation to help defray the rising costs to support this effort for the benefit for you to enjoy the satisfaction that when you call for help someone will be there. The next time you see a member of a fire company thank them for their service and that by far is the cheapest thing anyone can do.



Beef & Beer BENEFIT

for Natasha Artigliere

#ARTIGLIERESTRONG



Food, Music, Drink, Auctions, Prizes

Saturday MARCH 26, 2016 2 - 8pm

Camden-Wyoming Fire Dept
200 E. Camden-Wyoming Ave, Camden, DE 19934



Support Natasha and Ryan
as they fight the toughest
battle of their lives!

\$35 in advance; \$40 at the door
Tickets Available

ALL Proceeds Benefit
the Artigliere Family

Camden-Wyoming Fire Co 302-697-8671
200 E Camden Wyoming Ave Camden, DE 19934

Dover Fire Dept 302-736-7168
103 S Governors Ave Dover, DE 19904

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